

Fat Wife 1051

Chapter 1051 Stealing Money

Early the next morning, Xia Jun's long-time chauffeur came to look for Xia Wen with the money he had retrieved from Zhou Hua's younger brother. Xia Wen had specially taken the day off today to deal with this matter.

After the chauffeur entered the house, he opened the money bag in front of Tan Jing and Xia Wen. There was a total of 50,000 dollars. Tan Jing had never seen so much money in her life. If not for the fact that the chauffeur was around, she would have immediately pounced on the money bag.

"The entire sum is here. Zhou Hua's younger brother has informed me that there is 1,000 dollars missing. He couldn't help himself and had spent the money. Old Master Xia has already made up for the shortfall so there's exactly 50,000 dollars here," the chauffeur said earnestly.

Xia Wen nodded. Since Xia Jun had already counted the money, he would not need to do it again. He gave the chauffeur a few simple instructions and told him to go home and rest. After all, the chauffeur was the one investigating this matter in another city all this while and had also stayed up all night so that he could rush back.

After the chauffeur left, Tan Jing immediately leaped forward to take out all the money from the bag and started counting the notes.

"What are you doing?" Xia Wen asked with a frown.

"Erm... I'm helping you to count the money. What if that chauffeur had stolen some?" Tan Jing said awkwardly.

Xia Wen shook his head helplessly. He did not want to have any conflict with Tan Jing at the moment. So many things had happened in the past two days that he could barely breathe. There were things that he preferred not to deal with for now.

He walked into the bathroom to take a shower. It was very late when he came home last night and he had gone to bed without washing up properly. He could not go out looking so sloppy.

After getting his things ready and dressing up neatly, Xia Wen set off with the money bag. He had planned his journey such that he would arrive at Qiao Mei's house at lunchtime.

"Oh my, what brings our eldest brother here today?" Qiao Mei said with a smile as she sat in the long corridor at the courtyard.

"It's my appetite that has brought me here. I hope you don't mind adding an extra pair of chopsticks." Although Xia Wen spoke politely, his actions told a different story. He had already entered the house and taken off his coat.

He was banking on the fact that Qiao Mei definitely would not ask him to put back his coat and leave with all his things. That would be too inhumane of her.

"The food won't be ready for another half an hour. Come and sit here for a while," Qiao Mei said as she patted the chair beside her.

Xia Wen wanted to get the main issue out of the way first. He took the money bag, placed it on the table, unzipped it and took out all the money. However, the moment he emptied the bag, he realized that there was something wrong. One of the money bundles clearly held less notes than the rest.

Qiao Mei was not a person who paid attention to such things. She did not notice if there was too much or too little money. In fact, she did not even know what Xia Wen was doing.

"Where is the money from?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

Coincidentally, Xia He just arrived at the main hall. As soon as she entered, she saw the table full of money and was so shocked that she hurriedly closed the main door, worried that the people outside could see it.

"Oh my goodness, what are you doing with so much money in broad daylight? Where did all this money come from? Is this money from legit sources?" Xia He asked fearfully.

"This is the 50,000 dollars which Third Aunt-in-law took from He Ning. Grandfather located the money yesterday, so I'm now here to repay the debt," Xia Wen said with a dark expression.

Xia He looked at the money on the table excitedly, picked up a bundle and said, "Did Third Aunt-in-law succumb to her conscience? But that's not possible. She's willing to give up anything for this money, so there's no way she'll take the initiative to hand it over. And to grandfather no less."

"Third Uncle and Third Aunt-in-law are getting a divorce. Anyway, it's a long story. The thing is that there's a new problem now." Xia Wen tapped the smaller bundle of money and said, "This bundle of money is lesser than the rest. Tan Jing must have taken some."

He realized that he had put too much trust in Tan Jing. He originally thought that Tan Jing was just curious about the money, but he did not expect her to be so covetous. This was something unforgivable.

"How can you be so sure that it's Eldest Sister-in-law? Have you counted the money personally?" Qiao Mei asked.

Xia Wen was stunned for a moment. Indeed, he did not check on the amount after receiving it, but that chauffeur had worked for the Xia family for more than 10 years. There was no way he would betray them. Furthermore, at that time, the chauffeur had even taken the initiative to report that Xia Jun had made up for the shortfall of the missing 1,000 dollars. If he was the one who stole the money, he would not be so stupid to do this.

Chapter 1052 - 1052 Emergency Funds

1052 Emergency Funds

"But..." Xia Wen said with a troubled expression.

"What if it's Third Aunt-in-law's younger brother who did something? It might not be Eldest Sister-in-law." Xia He had the same opinion as Qiao Mei. In Xia He's impression, Tan Jing seemed to only care about the matter of having children. She did not think that Tan Jing would go so far as to steal money.

“It was our grandfather’s chauffeur who sent the money to me. Do you think it’s him? At my house, Tan Jing was the only one who touched the money. After the money was sent to me, she and I were the only two people who touched it,” Xia Wen said calmly.

Qiao Mei and Xia He fell silent. They both knew very well that the chauffeur would never covet the money. Even if he was threatened with death, he would not do anything to betray the Xia family. They had no idea how to deal with this matter, but Qiao Mei knew that if she said she was willing to turn a blind eye, it would embarrass Xia Wen even more.

Xia Wen thought for a moment and said, “I’ll count the money again later and I’ll make up for the shortfall. I’ll have to write you an IOU first and bring the money from home another time.”

Qiao Mei quickly said, “Actually, there’s no need to go through so much trouble. My plan is to split this money into two portions and for you and Xia He to each take half. Once you’re ready, you can buy a house and live nearby. Consider it a gift from Xia Zhe and me.”

Ever since Qiao Mei married into the Xia family, Xia Wen and Xia He had been busy helping her with her issues. In order to take care of her, Xia He was living a life like a housewife. Actually, Qiao Mei knew very well that if not for the fact that she needed someone to take care of her now, Xia He would definitely go forth to pursue her own dreams.

As for Xia Wen, he was always there for Qiao Mei to help her settle all her problems so that she need not worry about anything.

“No! We definitely won’t take this money. You have to take it back,” Xia He said firmly. Xia Wen also rejected Qiao Mei’s good intentions.

“Didn’t I promise to buy you a house a few days ago? Not that I’m really buying it for you, why are you rejecting it now?” Qiao Mei asked with a laugh.

“I was just joking with you. How can I really take a house from you? When I become a famous actress in the future, I will be able to buy a big house on my own! In addition, eldest brother will be promoted higher and higher up the ranks in the future and the workplace will allocate a house to him. You should save up this money for your children,” Xia He said.

“That’s right, Qiao Mei. My current job is different from my father and my other relatives. I manage trade and business in the capital . If my residence is too ostentatious, people will file a report against me. My current place is not too bad and it suits me very well,” Xia Wen said laughingly.

Seeing that Xia He and Xia Wen were so determined, Qiao Mei did not say anything else. It seemed to her that she had to think of another way since this method did not work.

“Alright, I’ll put it in my savings then. Treat it as an emergency fund that you park with me. Let me know if you need it in the future,” Qiao Mei said.

“This is everyone’s emergency fund. You must save it properly. When I have children in the future, you have to make a big gold lock for them! You have to treat my children well!” Xia He said as she pouted.

Xia Wen laughed as he stood at the side. Xia He had always liked these materialistic things. Traditionally, when a child turned one year old, people would hold a ceremony for the child to “draw lots”. It was a symbolic ceremony for good luck.

Everyone would place items related to many different professions on a big red cloth and arrange them in a circle. Then, they would let the child sit in the middle and see which item the child was most interested in, so as to predict the profession the child might choose in the future.

For Xia He, she grabbed a gold ingot at first, then she swapped it for a pair of dancing shoes. It was such an accurate representation of her up to this point in time.

They all went to the backyard for dinner. Xia Wen was still a little distracted. He kept thinking about how much money Tan Jing had taken from the sum of money meant for Qiao Mei and where she had kept it.

He wondered how Tan Jing became like this or if she had always been such a person.

Qiao Mei wanted to stop Xia Wen from counting the money, but Xia Wen was determined to do it. He said that if Qiao Mei did not let him do a recount, he would give her another 50,000 dollars.

Seeing how stubborn Xia Wen was, Qiao Mei allowed him to do what he wanted. After a long while, Xia Wen finally finished counting all the money. There was a total of 3,000 dollars missing, which far exceeded Xia Wen's expectations.

Chapter 1053 - 1053 I Just Want Her Things

1053 I Just Want Her Things

Xia Wen did not speak in the car on the way home. He stood calmly outside his house and stared at the very familiar door. This should be a place that made him feel warm inside, but instead, it had become the most unfamiliar place in the world. It was not the physical location that felt unfamiliar, but the person who lived with him.

As soon as he pushed open the door and entered the house, Xia Wen saw clothes and bags strewn all over the living room. There was even a 40-inch color television. All these things were new. Tan Jing had bought them after he left. There was no need for Xia Wen to ask her about the whereabouts of the money. The answer was very obvious.

Tan Jing stood in front of the mirror to admire her new clothes. This was the first time Xia Wen had seen Tan Jing so happy. He realized that Tan Jing had not smiled brightly ever since they got married.

"What... are you doing?" Xia Wen asked.

Tan Jing said happily, "These are my new clothes! Aren't they nice! I think this color is quite nice and makes me look quite good. And look at this television set. They say that the images are very sharp. Your eyes won't get tired when you watch the news at home!"

Back when she was working in the school, she could not wear brightly colored clothes or dresses. She was only allowed to wear very plain clothes and the colors could only be black, brown or dark blue. Wearing overly bright colors meant not conforming to the school rules, so she did not even own a single beautiful dress.

Now that she no longer worked in the school, no one could stop her from wearing whatever she wanted. She could choose her clothes freely and wear things that she liked.

“Where do you get the money to buy these things? Haven’t you stopped working since last month? Your mother has already taken all our money. How are you able to afford these things?” Xia Wen said.

“I... I have money... Don’t ask me about such things anymore! Come and see if you like it!” Tan Jing avoided the topic and ignored what Xia Wen said. She ran over happily and pulled Xia Wen over to sit on the sofa, proudly showing off the newly bought color television.

Xia Wen’s attention was not on the television at all and he just stared fixedly at Tan Jing. He even felt that Tan Jing was behaving very abnormally now. It was a side of her that he had never seen before.

“Did you take the money from the bag I received this morning?” Xia Wen asked directly.

Tan Jing’s smile gradually froze on her face. After thinking for a long time, she suddenly stood up and said, “About that! That is clearly money that Qiao Mei needs to give you for your hard work! Don’t you think that the money I took is what you deserve to get?”

“What do you mean by what I deserve to get? What have I done to deserve it?” Xia Wen looked at Tan Jing in disbelief.

“Why not! Ever since Qiao Mei married into the family, you’ve helped her so much! She should give you some benefits! What’s wrong with me taking some of her money! This is what she should give us!”

“You’ve worked so hard, but what has she ever given you? Has she ever given you anything? How is it enough just to say a word of thanks! No! Absolutely not! Anyway, she doesn’t care about this bit of money, so what’s the big deal if I take it! This is what she should give us!”

“And the pork which she brought with her! Couldn’t she have gone to buy some fresh pork! She insisted on sending us the meat from the pigs she reared in the countryside. Those pigs all have tumors! The pigs have diseases! She definitely has a motive! She just wants to poison me!”

“...”

Xia Wen looked at Tan Jing in shock as she stood in the living room and listed down everything he had done for Qiao Mei. She did not seem to remember anything about the nice things Qiao Mei did for him and his family.

Even if Qiao Mei was an unruly and willful or arrogant and despotic person, Xia Wen still had to treat Qiao Mei well. One reason was because Qiao Mei was Xia Zhe's wife. As the eldest brother, he must bear the responsibility of taking care of his younger siblings and their families. The other reason was that if Qiao Qiang had not saved Xia Jun, the Xia family would not have existed. No matter what Qiao Mei did, the Xia family had to treat her well.

"But these cannot be the reasons for you to commit theft. If you want to buy these things, you can tell me. Why do you have to steal Qiao Mei's money?" Xia Wen asked.

"But those things don't belong to you to begin with! What's the use of having them! While you are criticizing others, have you ever thought about your own behavior!" Xia Wen roared.

Chapter 1054 Go Back To Your House

It was only at this moment that Xia Wen understood that Tan Jing only hated Qiao Mei. As long as something belonged to Qiao Mei, Tan Jing wanted to either destroy it or take it for herself. During this period of time, the Xia family's preferential treatment of Qiao Mei and their coldness towards Tan Jing had completely destroyed the front which Tan Jing had put up for so many years.

She had been the Xia family's only daughter-in-law for a long time. She thought that Xu Lan was just a cold person, but Qiao Mei's appearance made her aware of the truth. Xu Lan was just not satisfied with her.

"I've already spent the money. I don't think Qiao Mei will kick up a fuss with you about this bit of money," Tan Jing said.

"Isn't 3,000 dollars considered quite a big sum of money? We have to scrimp and save for more than a year to have 3,000 dollars! Are you brushing it aside so easily now?" Xia Wen said as he looked at Tan Jing disdainfully.

Tan Jing looked nonchalant. The current situation was already so bad that it made no real difference to her even if it got worse. She had already spent all the money. Even if he killed her, she would not be able to fork out the 3,000 dollars.

"She's so capable that she can easily make tens of thousands of dollars. A mere 3,000 dollars is nothing to her!" Tan Jing said.

"I'll return the 3,000 dollars to her. Every month, I'll give you 20 dollars for your living expenses and the rest of my salary will go to Qiao Mei to repay the debt," Xia Wen said sternly.

An amount of 20 dollars was more than enough for Tan Jing's monthly expenses. During this period of time, he would continue to stay at Xu Lan's house. He really could not live with Tan Jing anymore. He was unable to accept the person she had become.

He had no choice but to deal with it in this manner for the moment.

Life was peaceful and quiet for one week. Every day, other than helping Li Gui make some popcorn, Qiao Mei would potter around the courtyard. She was thinking about rearing some chickens and ducks in the corn courtyard house and feeding them with herbs.

Back in the village, if Qiao Zhuang's family had not poisoned her precious chickens and ducks, each one would be worth at least 60 dollars now! They would make very nutritious food!

There were still two months to go before spring, so she still had time to demarcate a piece of land and tidy it up to continue with her experiment.

"Elder sister, do you prefer to eat chicken or duck?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"Duck, of course! The roast duck in the capital is world-famous! The roast duck here is the most delicious in the entire country! You can't eat such greasy food now. After you give birth, I'll bring you out to try!" Xia He said agitatedly.

"Didn't eldest brother bring some roast duck that day? Are you talking about that restaurant?" Qiao Mei said.

"Yes, that restaurant. The food was already cold when eldest brother brought it over. You have to eat freshly made roast duck. That's when it's most fragrant!" Xia He said.

Since Xia He liked to eat roast duck, she decided that she would rear ducks for the first batch. The next time they went over to see Xia Fang, she would ask Uncle Liu Yang to take Xia He's pulse and check on the kind of herbs which Xia He needed to eat for her health. She would suit the remedy to the case!

Qiao Mei was so engrossed in her thoughts that she did not notice that there was someone knocking on the door. It was only when the people outside shouted loudly that she came back to her senses.

"Who is it? These people are as noisy as debt collectors." Qiao Mei reluctantly walked to the main door to open it.

As soon as she opened the door, two children rushed in from outside and almost knocked into her.

"Oh! So elder sister is at home! Why did you take so long to open the door?" Xiao Yu pouted and said aggrievedly.

Qiao Mei frowned slightly and looked unhappily at the Liang family members outside the door. From the looks of it, there was going to be another round of arguments today.

"Such rare guests. Why are you here today?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"What a thing to say. We're here to visit Father. We haven't had a chance to come for a visit after you bring your grandfather to the capital. We had gone to the train station to pick you up that day but we didn't manage to do so. So, we're here to pay a visit since we have some free time today," Liang Lan said with a smile.

Qiao Mei said disdainfully, "You people only have time to come and pay us a visit after we've been here for a month. You're really quite busy."

If it was only the Liang siblings who came to visit, Qiao Mei would not even speak to them and would just close the door and not let them in. However, they had brought the two kids and she did not want to let the kids bear the burden of the previous generation's grievances.

Qiao Mei did not say anything and just wordlessly brought them to the backyard. Looking at the renovated house, the Liang siblings were extremely envious. When they came to take a look previously, it definitely did not look as grand as it did now.

"Elder sister, you live in such a nice house! Can I come and live here with you!" Xiao Yu asked with a smile.

"No, this is my house. You should go back to your house," Qiao Mei said bluntly.

Chapter 1055 - 1055 What Is The Matter

1055 What Is The Matter

Xiao Yu was stunned. This was the first time in her life that someone had spoken to her like this. It was also different from what Liang Lan had told her at home.

Liang Lan always told her that Qiao Mei and her were a family and that being a family meant they needed to share everything. No matter what it was, whatever belonged to Qiao Mei belonged to Xiao Yu too. There was no need for her to stand on ceremony when she was at Qiao Mei's house.

"This house is indeed different from what it used to look like..." Liang Lan muttered to herself.

Xiao Yu came to Liang Lan's side aggrievedly and said, "Mom... does elder sister not like me? Why is it completely different from what you told me."

"No, she's just not feeling well now. She's not deliberately targeting you. Go and look for your grandfather and do what mom briefed you at home," Liang Lan said as she patted Xiao Yu's back.

Liang Zu followed behind Liang Guo closely, as if all of this had nothing to do with him. In fact, he truly did not care about any of these things. Everything in the Liang family would eventually belong to him. He

did not need to work hard or fight for anything at all. He just needed to do whatever Liang Guo told him to do.

Furthermore, he already had an idea of how capable Qiao Mei was. This woman was not someone to be trifled with, so it was better to stay away from her.

Previously, Qiao Mei had told them that this house belonged to the Xia family, but they found out that only the house in the front yard belonged to the Xia family. The house in the backyard was Qiao Qiang's property. Since it belonged to Qiao Qiang, that meant that the Liang siblings had a share of the property!

At this moment, Qiao Qiang was taking a rest in the long corridor. There was a cheerful tune playing on the radio and Qiao Qiang was humming along. He waved his hands in the air in line with the rhythm of the music, looking to be in a very good mood.

"Grandfather~" Xiao Yu ran happily to Qiao Qiang and held his hands enthusiastically.

Although Qiao Qiang did not like this child, they were still blood relatives after all. He still felt a sense of closeness to her, so he did not push her away. He just looked at her quietly without saying anything.

"Grandfather, the people from the Liang family are here to visit you," Qiao Mei said coldly, as if the two siblings had nothing to do with them and were just ordinary visitors.

"Yes, is anything the matter?" Qiao Qiang asked indifferently.

"Father, we're here to visit you. You didn't tell us in advance before you came to the capital. We rushed over the moment we heard about it. These two kids miss you too," Liang Lan said with a fake smile.

Qiao Qiang did not believe anything she said. It was not as if he had never met these two children before. If not for his status and property assets, these two children of his would not want to have anything to do with him at all.

Qiao Mei stood silently beside Qiao Qiang. At a moment like this, it was inconvenient for Xia He, Li Gui and the rest to show their faces, so they had all gone to the front yard. Qiao Mei had specially instructed them not to count the Liang family in when they prepared dinner. She intended to ask them to leave after they finished saying what they had come to say.

“Um... Shall we go inside to talk?” Liang Guo asked in a cautious manner.

It had been a long journey to reach Qiao Mei’s house and they were exhausted. If not for the fact that his family elder kept urging them, Liang Guo did not want to make the trip here at all.

“Just say whatever you want to say out here. I don’t have much time to entertain you. The kids at home still have lessons later,” Qiao Qiang said impatiently.

“Grandfather~ Don’t you want me to chat with you? I want to stay here for a few more days!” Xiao Yu said coquettishly.

She was only interested in benefits and instant gratification, and she did not possess the innocence that a child her age should have. Her sweet appearance was just an act. At home, she was like the devil incarnate who would throw a tantrum whenever things did not go her way. In particular, Xiao Yu’s temper had become worse after returning from Foshan Village.

“Is that so? Then why didn’t you stay with me when I asked you to stay behind in the village previously? This is your elder sister’s house, not mine. If you want to live here, you have to ask your elder sister first,” Qiao Qiang said.

Xiao Yu looked at Qiao Mei expectantly again and asked, “Elder sister, can I stay here?”

Chapter 1056 Ten-Thousand-Year-Old Ginseng

"No, you can't. We already have too many children at home and there are so many lessons every day. The teacher can't take care of so many people at the same time. We won't be able to cope if the two of you join in. You should go back to your own house," Qiao Mei said.

Xiao Yu pouted unhappily and almost revealed her true colors in front of Qiao Qiang. Liang Lan hurriedly pulled Xiao Yu into her arms and said, "The child is still young. She's just curious about new things."

"It's fine. Children can be insensible but adults should know better. Is there anything else?" Qiao Mei asked bluntly.

Liang Lan's smile froze on her face. Qiao Mei did not have parents to discipline her since she was young, so it was not hard to understand why she was so rude. Liang Lan did not want to argue with Qiao Mei and wanted to get down to business.

"Actually, we're not here for anything special. We're just bringing the kids over for a visit. I feel that Father's health has improved a lot. Did he recover so well because of some medicine that he took?" Liang Lan probed.

They were finally getting to the point. Qiao Mei and Qiao Qiang looked at each other with disdainful smiles on their faces.

They knew that the Liang family was definitely up to no good. Not only did they come empty-handed even when paying a visit, but they kept requesting to stay over for a few days. Their behavior was completely abnormal.

"Medicine? Grandfather doesn't take any medicine. He just eats the fowl which we rear ourselves, as well as the vegetables we grow at home. Other than that, he only eats some herbs from the mountains," Qiao Mei said.

"Is that so? I heard from other people that you seem to have a very useful 'divine medicine'. I wonder if you still have any left," Liang Guo asked.

"Is there such a thing? Why don't I know anything about it? Our family doesn't have any 'divine medicine'," Qiao Mei said.

Liang Lan said in disbelief, "We're not asking you to give it to us for free. A few days ago, we even heard that He Ning bought all the medicine. You... haven't kept some for yourselves?"

Qiao Mei really could not be bothered with these people from the Liang family. She had already explained this matter countless times. She was still able to be patient with other people, but when it came to the Liang family members, she simply could not suppress the anger in her heart. She always had the urge to scold them and tell them to get lost quickly, hoping that she never had to see them again.

"Since you already say that it's 'divine medicine', then how can there be a lot? He Ning bought everything. If you want it, you can go and buy some from He Ning," Qiao Mei said.

She was not willing to waste her breath and would simply redirect any queries about the "divine medicine" to He Ning. Qiao Mei guessed that the Liang family would not dare to go and look for He Ning to offer to buy the medicine. Otherwise, they would not have gone through so much trouble to come to their place.

"Erm... Then what is the medicine made of? Don't you at least have the raw materials?" Liang Lan asked agitatedly.

"Raw materials? Yes, a 10,000-year-old ginseng," Qiao Mei said as she looked at Liang Lan earnestly.

A 10,000-year-old ginseng? How was that possible!

The Liang family members all looked at Qiao Mei in shock. A 100-year-old ginseng was already considered a top-grade ginseng on the market. How could there be a 10,000-year-old ginseng? A 10,000-year-old ginseng must already be a plant spirit.

Even if Qiao Mei did not want to give them the formula, she should not lie to them like this. How could she treat them like fools?

"Nonsense! How can there be a 10,000-year-old ginseng! How can things be stored for so long! It would have gone bad long ago!" Xiao Yu shouted as she jabbed her finger at Qiao Mei's nose.

Seeing that Xiao Yu was being so rude to Qiao Mei, Qiao Qiang sat up and glared at Xiao Yu. His fierce gaze frightened Xiao Yu so much that she retreated repeatedly and fell to the ground while crying.

Liang Lan hurriedly asked Liang Zu to bring Xiao Yu to one side so that she did not get in the way of what they were doing.

Qiao Mei shrugged and said indifferently, "It doesn't matter if you believe it or not. This is the truth. We really don't have it anymore."

"What about ginseng? Don't you have any more ginseng?" Liang Lan continued to ask.

Even if there was no more "divine medicine", the root of a 10,000-year-old ginseng was a very valuable item too. Such a root could easily be considered an elixir.

"No, He Ning bought everything. If you really need it, go and buy some from He Ning. Everything related to the medicine has been bought by He Ning. You don't have to waste your breath here," Qiao Mei said.

Seeing that Qiao Mei was so stubborn, the Liang siblings gloomily left Qiao Mei's house with the children.

Chapter 1057 Overly Favored

They did not expect such a conclusion today. They not only did not manage to find any useful information, they even had to suffer a rebuff with nothing to show for it.

As they were leaving, Qiao Qiang shouted after them, "Don't come to my house again in the future. All my assets will eventually belong to Qiao Mei. You won't get anything and I don't need you to be filial to me. I don't wish to see any of you again. If you come to my house again, I'll get the police to come and arrest you."

"Grandfather! You can't be so biased! We're also your grandchildren! Why does elder sister get everything?" Xiao Yu stood at the door and shouted angrily.

"You? You can only be considered my obedient grandchild if you can get used to the simple life I live here," Qiao Qiang said patiently.

Xiao Yu stomped her feet angrily and left Qiao Mei's house without looking back. It was only after the Liang family members left that Zhang Wei and the other children came out to go about their activities. Li Gui and Xia He also went to the kitchen to prepare dinner.

"Grandfather, do you really dislike Xiao Yu and Liang Zu?" Qiao Mei asked, feeling a little sorry for him.

After all, they were also her grandfather's biological grandchildren. Qiao Qiang only had these surviving children and neither of them had ever taken care of him. Even though the Liang siblings were only putting on a show of hypocritical filial piety, it was still good enough if they could keep up with the pretense.

Qiao Qiang was already old and it was time for him to enjoy life. He should get to enjoy his days with all his children and grandchildren, like other elderly people.

"It's enough that I have you. Just looking at those hypocritical people makes me feel uncomfortable. They're really an eyesore. Besides, I still have Zhang Wei and the others. I already have many grandchildren and I don't need them to make up the numbers," Qiao Qiang said proudly.

In Qiao Qiang's heart, he did not care about blood ties. Zhang Wei and the other children treated him well and he was willing to put in effort to take care of them. What did it matter if they were his biological relatives or not?

Qiao Mei could finally put her worries to rest. As long as Qiao Qiang was happy, no matter what kind of life he wanted, Qiao Mei would work hard to help him realize it. Thinking of this, Qiao Mei suddenly felt her mood lightened and she happily went to the front yard to help Li Gui make dinner.

The Liang siblings drove directly back to the Liang family's old house. As soon as the car reached the main door, the Liang family's servants rushed forward. Each of them had a different task to do at this moment.

"Eldest Young Master, you're back. Matriarch Liang has been waiting for you in the house for a long time," Butler Liang said respectfully with his head lowered.

This butler was a distant relative of the Liang family. His family fell into dire straits and he came to Liang Guo's mother, Liang Shu to seek help. Liang Shu thought highly of him as he was reliable and also very tight-lipped, so she gave him a job in her house.

Three or four servants stood around Liang Guo and Liang Zu, helping them to take off their coats, change their shoes, wash their hands, freshen up and so on. The servants helped them with everything and there was no need for Liang Guo and Liang Zu to do anything themselves. On the other hand, Xiao Yu and Liang Lan stood awkwardly at the side as no one paid them any attention. Liang Lan took out a handkerchief and helped Xiao Yu to wipe her hands and her face.

After they got tidied up, the few of them slowly followed the butler to the main hall. Liang Shu was sitting on the sofa and waiting for them.

When Liang Shu saw Liang Zu, she shouted affectionately, "Liang Zu, come over here! Let grandma take a look at you. Grandma misses you so much!"

He was only away for less than five hours, but Liang Shu already behaved like this. It was obvious how much Liang Shu valued and liked Liang Zu.

"Grandma, I only went out for a while. I wasn't away for very long," Liang Zu said helplessly.

"No way! Even if you only go out for a while, I still feel like it's a long time," Liang Shu said angrily.

Liang Zu sat next to Liang Shu obediently and did not move an inch. This was the status and treatment that he enjoyed in the Liang family. Given that everyone doted on him and pampered him, in the eyes of outsiders, they all felt that Liang Zu lived a heavenly life where he could have whatever he wanted.

In the beginning, Liang Zu also felt that it was a nice life. However, as he grew up, he began to feel that Liang Shu's love for him was like shackles. To him, such an existence was full of pain and there was no joy at all.

"Xiao Yu, go and greet your grandmother," Liang Lan whispered as she gently patted Xiao Yu's back.

Xiao Yu walked up to Liang Shu fearfully and said, "Grandma... I'm back..."

"Mmm," Liang Shu replied without even looking at Xiao Yu.

Liang Shu looked at Liang Guo and asked, "Where is it? Have you brought it back?"

Chapter 1058 - 1058 Drink Your Blood

1058 Drink Your Blood

"No, I don't have it. Qiao Mei said that they don't have it anymore and that the He family has bought everything," Liang Guo said.

Liang Shu was so angry that she pushed down the vase from the coffee table. The huge glass vase fell to the ground with a loud bang. This Qiao Qiang and Qiao Mei were simply too much!

"Nothing left! Who are they trying to lie to! How can they not keep such good stuff for themselves! All of you! What a bunch of useless bums. Why aren't you able to gain Qiao Qiang's trust? If they see you as part of their family, will they still be so guarded! What have you been doing all this while!" Liang Shu roared furiously.

Xiao Yu was so frightened that she hurriedly hid behind Liang Lan. At moments like this, she would usually get a beating. Liang Shu never reprimanded Liang Zu. If anything went wrong, she would scold Xiao Yu first. Whenever Liang Shu was provoked and lost her temper, she would vent her anger on Xiao Yu.

Liang Lan hugged Xiao Yu tightly and stood far away from the commotion. The two of them had no say in such matters. In fact, Liang Shu could even send them to their deaths with one word.

"We... tried our best..." Liang Guo lowered his head and said weakly.

Liang Shu paced back and forth in the living room out of frustration. This was the first time she had encountered something like this. Qiao Qiang was the only person who would dare not to show any respect to the Liang family.

“What else did that asshole Qiao Qiang say?” Liang Shu asked.

Liang Guo and Liang Lan looked at each other and neither of them dared to speak up. Liang Zu lowered his head while Xiao Yu stood behind Liang Lan in fear. She was trembling so badly that her legs were unable to support her body weight and she fell to the ground by accident.

Xiao Yu was so scared that she hurriedly knelt on the ground and whispered, “I’m sorry! I didn’t do it on purpose!”

Liang Shu narrowed her eyes and slowly walked up to Xiao Yu. She grabbed hold of that small cheeky face and asked, “Tell me, what else did your grandfather say?”

“He... he said that we’re not allowed to visit him in the future... He also said that he has nothing to do with us anymore, that Qiao Mei is his only granddaughter and we’re not his grandchildren, unless...”
Xiao Yu hesitated for a moment.

“Unless what?” Liang Shu continued to ask.

“Unless my cousin and I go back to the village with him and be able to endure the hard life there,” Xiao Yu said with a trembling voice and tears in her eyes.

Liang Shu snorted coldly. She did not care if this wretched girl had to go to the farmland to suffer with Qiao Qiang, but she would never let her precious eldest grandson, Liang Zu, go there!

No one could take Liang Zu away from her! Unless she was dead!

“How arrogant of him! If not for the fact that our Liang family took a liking to him back then! How else can he enjoy his current glory! He’ll still be living in the mountains without the means to eat! He even still dares to strut in front of me nowadays! I think he’s tired of living!” Liang Shu said furiously.

“What can we do... Now that Qiao Mei has married into the Xia family, there’s nothing our family can do,” Liang Guo said resignedly.

“The Xia family? What’s the big deal about the Xia family? I thought Qiao Qiang bought that backyard part of the house with his own money? Why can’t we go there? I want the two of you to bring the children and stay there from tomorrow onwards. I don’t believe that the Xia family will come and stop us,” Liang Shu said.

“Qiao Qiang already says that he will keep that house for Qiao Mei and that everything he owns will eventually belong to Qiao Mei. Now that Qiao Mei is the Xia family’s daughter-in-law, that means the house will belong to the Xia family in the future,” Liang Guo explained.

She would not let this matter rest just like that! If she did not let Qiao Qiang have a taste of all the grievances she suffered back then, she would drop her surname, Liang!

“His children are still around, so why should Qiao Mei be the one to inherit this house! I don’t care what method you use! You must obtain the ‘divine medicine’! If you can’t get the ‘divine medicine’, then I’ll drink your blood!” Liang Shu shouted as she pointed at Liang Guo and Liang Lan.

Liang Guo and Liang Lan quickly grabbed the children and rushed back to their own homes. Along the way, Xiao Yu lay down obediently with her head in Liang Lan’s lap, not wanting to be far from Liang Lan.

“Mom... will grandmother kill me...” Xiao Yu asked as she looked at Liang Lan fearfully.

Liang Lan smiled bitterly and said, “No, she’s just trying to scare you.”

Chapter 1059 The Use For The Aphrodisiac

"But grandmother doesn't treat my cousin like this. She gives him all the good things. I'm the only one she treats this way. Is it because I'm not as outstanding as him?" Xiao Yu said sadly.

Liang Lan looked at her young daughter in her arms and it was like seeing herself when she was young. After Qiao Qiang left, Liang Lan was the worst off. In order to consolidate her own status in the Liang family, Liang Shu only cared about Liang Guo and gave him all the good things as well as the nicest food.

Even after Liang Lan grew up, she was not allowed to make her own decisions. Liang Shu even controlled the type of clothes that she could wear. Whenever Liang Shu was unhappy, she would beat and scold Liang Lan until Liang Lan was covered in bruises. This was all because Liang Lan inherited Qiao Qiang's looks and resembled him a lot.

Even Liang Lan's marriage was pre-arranged. As soon as she was of marriageable age, Liang Shu immediately married her off to the Xiao family because the Xiao family could help to stabilize Liang Shu's status in the Liang family. It was only when Liang Guo gained a firm foothold in the government and Liang Lan was able to take charge of the Liang family that Liang Shu completely defeated her brother, Liang Can.

Liang Can was now living in their old hometown and rarely participated in the Liang family's power struggles in the capital. It could even be said that he was living a life aloof from worldly affairs. He never had any intention of competing with Liang Shu in the first place. It was all a show put up by Liang Shu.

"Our Xiao Yu is so capable and outstanding. It's not your fault. Even if grandmother doesn't like you, Mom likes you very much. I'll try my best not to bring you back to her house in the future, alright?" Liang Lan asked gently.

"Alright." Xiao Yu nodded vigorously. After saying that, she buried her head tightly in Liang Lan's lap, as if this was the safest place in the world.

Liang Lan stared blankly out of the window. She did not know when such a life would end. If she could choose again, she would rather not be born into the Liang family. Even if she was born into a poor family in the countryside, at least she would not live a life without freedom.

That night, the Liang family sent out many of their spies to try and find out how much money He Ning had paid for the "divine medicine". The replies they received vary between 60,000 to 100,000 dollars. It was hardly surprising for them to hear that the He family spent so extravagantly. This amount of money would be enough for Qiao Mei to spend for the rest of her life!

When Liang Shu heard the news, she smashed up everything in the kitchen until there was nothing left to break.

The He family did not remain idle. He Ning had asked Jia Zhong to secretly bring He Mei back from the mountains and find another girl to replace her spot there.

Huo Gao looked at He Ning in puzzlement and asked, "Aren't you afraid that Qiao Mei will hate you for bringing He Mei back now?"

"Why would she hate me? I'm just bringing He Mei home. What does it have anything to do with Qiao Mei?" He Ning asked.

"Have you forgotten how He Mei tried to harm Qiao Mei and her babies? Qiao Mei is due to give birth soon. If the Xia family finds out that you have brought He Mei back, there's going to be trouble," Huo Gao said.

He Ning nodded. What Huo Gao said made sense, but this was the exact effect that he wanted. He felt very much at ease with Jia Zhong handling matters for him. The Xia family's attention was all on Xia Mao and Qiao Mei at the moment and they would not have time to note what the He family was doing.

Furthermore, his intention in bringing He Mei back was not to hurt Qiao Mei. Initially, he had deliberately hurt Qiao Mei only because he wanted to get Xia Zhe on his side, together with the Xia family's support. Later on, when he found out that Qiao Mei had outstanding culinary skills and she was good with flowers and plants, he felt that it was a pity for such a capable person to stay in the Xia family.

He had no qualms about doing everything he could to get Qiao Mei on his side, but he knew that Qiao Mei was a very stubborn person. No matter what he did, he would not be able to affect Qiao Mei's feelings for Xia Zhe. Since he could not break them up, he would make their relationship disintegrate from the inside.

"I remember that Jia Zhong had given me a report on the general route that Xia Zhe would take to return to the capital after his mission? His army unit will definitely stay in the town hospital in South City to recuperate for a period of time. Let's arrange for He Mei to go there to help out. The rest is up to her," He Ning said.

Huo Gao looked at He Ning in admiration. With He Mei's current looks, it was impossible for her to seduce Xia Zhe. No wonder He Ning kept urging him to concoct different types of aphrodisiac some time

ago. He had thought that He Ning had finally come to his senses and found someone he liked. He definitely did not expect that it was meant to be used on Xia Zhe!

This really made him feel a little disappointed...

Occasionally missing content, please report errors in time.

Chapter 1060 Disintegrate From The Inside

"What kind of expression is this? You have no faith in my scheme?" He Ning looked at the frowning Huo Gao in confusion.

"I just think that you have such a hard life, to have to come up with such a scheme," Huo Gao said resignedly.

He Ning relaxed on the sofa and said with a smile, "I'm just giving it a try. It'll be a bonus if it succeeds. Qiao Mei is the kind of person who won't accept a man who cheats on her. When Qiao Mei gets a divorce, I can then take advantage of the situation. However, it also doesn't matter if He Mei fails. We still have other plans that we can use to slowly break up the couple's relationship from the inside."

Huo Gao could only send He Ning his best wishes. It was obvious that the plan would not succeed. If He Mei was able to seduce Xia Zhe in the first place, Qiao Mei would not have come into the picture at all. However, nothing was cast in stone. It all depended on what kind of tricks He Mei had up her sleeves.

"Oh right, have you found out Xia Zhe's current mission location?" He Ning asked.

"No, but we found something interesting. No one paid any attention to it previously, but when I think about it now, I feel that something is not very right," Huo Gao said.

He Ning looked at Huo Gao and asked, "What's not very right?"

"Isn't it Qiao Mei's 'divine medicine' that saved Xia Mao? Apparently, this 'divine medicine' is stored in glass bottles. Some time ago, the transportation team had seized one of Xia Zhe's packages from home and found two glass bottles inside. I suspect that these bottles contain the so-called 'divine medicine'," Huo Gao said.

"So what? The military seizes anything that is unidentifiable and then they'll inform the soldier's family members to bring it back. Nothing surprising about this," He Ning said.

This was the crux of the problem. The name of the person in charge of the transportation team was Zhong Ye. He had always thought highly of Xia Zhe and wanted Xia Zhe to marry his daughter, Zhong Wan. Even if Xia Zhe did not like his daughter, he would not mind if Xia Zhe was willing to become his godson.

If anyone dared to say anything bad about Xia Zhe, he was always the first to disagree!

However, Xia Zhe had offended Zhong Ye by making his precious daughter feel aggrieved. If Xia Zhe had married the Zheng family's daughter or the He family's daughter, Zhong Ye would not have any objections. In fact, he would even send them a big gift to wish them well.

The issue was that after Xia Zhe rejected Zhong Wan, he immediately married a village girl from the countryside. This was something that Zhong Ye could not accept. What was so bad about his daughter! How could it be that she was a worse choice than a village girl from the countryside!

What Xia Zhe did was tantamount to telling people that Zhong Wan was not worthy of him and was not even as good as a woman from the countryside. Zhong Ye felt that this was a slap on his face!

Zhong Ye had been holding back his anger and looking for an opportunity to take revenge. He did not expect the chance to come so quickly.

During one of their routine inspections, they found two bottles of unknown liquid in a package sent to Xia Zhe. These were classified as illegitimate items. The military considered homemade products to be dangerous items.

"Brother Zhong, take a look at this," said Xiao Luo, one of Zhong Ye's subordinates.

Zhong Ye did not even bother to look up. He closed his eyes and lay back on the chair as he said, "Don't bother me. Can't you just handle all these issues related to transportation? Haven't I taught you a lot all these years? Otherwise, what do I need you for?"

"That's not it, Brother Zhong! This is a package from Xia Zhe's family. I don't know how to handle it, so you have to make the decision," Xiao Luo said anxiously.

The moment Zhong Ye heard that it was related to Xia Zhe, his interest was immediately piqued. He quickly sat up and picked up a glass bottle to check it carefully. After inspecting it for a long time, he still could not find anything unusual. It just looked like a bottle of colored water. Zhong Ye gently pried open the bottle cap and took a whiff. That was when he realized that it was actually liquor!

"You piece of trash! Don't you know that such strong liquor is not allowed in the army! Do you still have to ask me about such things! Just confiscate it! Get the Xia family members to come and retrieve it!" Zhong Ye said furiously.

Xiao Luo hurriedly went forward and pointed at the words outside the bottle. "Brother Zhong, look here. It's stated here that it's medicinal wine. Furthermore, it's also strangely stated here that it can be used to treat all kinds of illnesses. Is there really such a medicine in this world?"

Zhong Ye also found it to be unbelievable. If there was such a magical thing in the world, everyone would be able to live to a ripe old age.

"Brother Zhong... This is a package personally sent by Commander Xia Mao. Is it alright for us to confiscate it?" Xiao Luo said fearfully.